

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A router bit system, comprising:

a bit including a cutting head and a shank, the shank having an annular groove formed therein; and

a router bit holding assembly including:

a chuck having a bore for receiving the shank, the chuck having an opening radially formed therein;

a ball received in the opening for engaging the annular groove of the shank when the shank is received in the bore;

a collar concentrically disposed about the chuck, the collar sliding axially between a first position and a second position,

wherein when the collar is moved to the first position the collar is configured to hold for holding the ball in engagement with the annular groove and when the collar is moved to the second position the collar is configured to allow for allowing the ball to be disengaged from the annular groove.

2. (original) The router bit system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a spring assembly for biasing the collar to the first position.

3. (original) The router bit system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the spring assembly comprises a compression spring, the compression spring being compressed as the collar is moved to the second position.

4. (original) The router bit system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shank includes a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the cutting head and the second end being tapered for facilitating insertion into the bore.
5. (currently amended) The router bit system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the bore is tapered for receiving configured to receive the second end of the shank.
6. (original) The router bit system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shank includes a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the cutting head and the second end being shaped for engagement with the chuck when the shank is received in the bore to at least substantially prevent rotation of the shank within the bore.
7. (original) The router bit system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the second end comprises a slot formed therein, and the chuck includes a pin extending through the bore for engaging the slot when the shank is received in the bore.
8. (original) The router bit system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collar comprises an internal annular tapered groove for biasing the ball inwardly within the opening in the chuck when the collar is moved to the first position.
9. (currently amended) A router bit holding assembly for receiving a bit including a cutting head and a shank, the shank having an annular groove formed therein, comprising:
  - a chuck having a bore for receiving the shank, the chuck having an opening radially formed therein;
  - a ball received in the opening for engaging the annular groove of the shank when the shank is received in the bore;
  - a collar concentrically disposed about the chuck, the collar sliding axially between a first position and a second position,

wherein when the collar is moved to the first position the collar is configured to hold for holding the ball in engagement with the annular groove to at least substantially prevent rotation of the shank within the bore when the chuck is rotated, and when the collar is moved to the second position the collar is configured to allow for allowing the ball to be disengaged from the annular groove.

10. (original) The router bit holding assembly as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a spring assembly for biasing the collar to the first position.

11. (original) The router bit holding assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spring assembly comprises a compression spring, the compression spring being compressed as the collar is moved to the second position.

12. (currently amended) The router bit holding assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the bore is configured to receive a tapered end of the shank is tapered for receiving the second end of the shank, the shank including a first end and a second end being coupled to the cutting head and the second end being tapered for facilitating insertion into the bore.

13. (currently amended) The router bit holding assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the chuck includes an anti-rotation portion that engages the shank when the shank is received in the bore to at least substantially prevent rotation of the shank within the bore.

14. (currently amended) The router bit holding assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein chuck includes anti-rotation portion comprises a pin extending through the bore for engaging a slot formed in the shank when the shank is received in the bore.

15. (original) The router bit holding assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the collar comprises an internal annular tapered groove for biasing the ball inwardly within the opening in the chuck when the collar is moved to the first position.

16. (currently amended) A router bit, comprising:

a cutting head for performing a cutting operation on a work piece; and  
~~a shank having a first end coupled to the cutting head, a second end having a slot configured to be engaged by a first engagement portion of a for providing attachment of the router bit to the bit holding assembly of a router, and an annular groove formed therein configured to be engaged by a second engagement portion of the bit holding assembly.;~~

~~wherein the bit holding assembly of the router engages the annular groove of the shank when the shank is received in the bit holding assembly for securing the router bit within the bit holding assembly.~~

17-53. (cancelled).

54. (new) The router bit of claim 16, wherein the first engagement portion comprises a pin.

55. (new) The router bit of claim 16, wherein the second engagement portion comprises a ball.

56. (new) The router bit system of claim 1, wherein when the collar is moved to the first position, the ball at least substantially prevents rotation of the shank within the bore when the chuck is rotated.

57. (new) The router bit system of claim 6, wherein the second end comprises a faceted portion and the chuck includes a corresponding faceted portion that engages the faceted portion of the second end.

58. (new) The router bit system of claim 13, wherein the anti-rotation portion comprises a faceted portion that engages a corresponding faceted portion of the shank.

59. (new) A router bit system, comprising:

a bit including a cutting head and a shank, the shank having first and second anti-rotation portions; and

a router bit holding assembly including:

a chuck having a bore for receiving the shank, the chuck having an a first engagement portion for engaging the first anti-rotation portion and a second engagement portion for engaging the second anti-rotation portion; and

a collar axially moveable between a first position and a second position relative to the chuck,

wherein when the collar is moved to the first position the collar holds the second engagement member in engagement with the second anti-rotation portion and when the collar is moved to the second position the collar allows the second engagement member to be disengaged from the second anti-rotation portion.

60. (new) The router bit system of claim 59, wherein the first anti-rotation portion comprises a slot formed in the shank and the first engagement portion comprises a pin that engages the slot.

61. (new) The router bit system of claim 59, wherein the first anti-rotation portion comprises a faceted portion and the first engagement portion comprises a corresponding faceted portion.

62. (new) The router bit system of claim 59, wherein the second anti-rotation portion comprises an annular groove and the second engagement portion comprises a ball that is engageable with the annular groove.

63. (new) The router bit system of claim 59, wherein engagement of the first anti-rotation portion and the first engagement portion at least substantially prevents rotation of the shank within the bore when the chuck is rotated.

64. (new) The router bit system of claim 59, wherein engagement of the second anti-rotation portion and the second engagement portion at least substantially prevents rotation of the shank within the bore when the chuck is rotated.

65. (new) A router bit holding assembly for receiving a bit including a cutting head and a shank, the shank having first and second anti-rotation portions, the router bit holding assembly comprising:

a chuck having a bore for receiving the shank, the chuck having a first engagement portion for engaging the first anti-rotation portion and a second engagement portion for engaging the second anti-rotation portion; and

a collar axially moveable between a first position and a second position relative to the chuck,

wherein when the collar is moved to the first position the collar holds the second engagement member in engagement with the second anti-rotation portion and when the collar is moved to the second position the collar allows the second engagement member to be disengaged from the second anti-rotation portion.

66. (new) The router bit system of claim 65, wherein the first anti-rotation portion comprises a slot formed in the shank and the first engagement portion comprises a pin that engages the slot.

67. (new) The router bit system of claim 65, wherein the first anti-rotation portion comprises a faceted portion and the first engagement portion comprises a corresponding faceted portion.

68. (new) The router bit system of claim 65, wherein the second anti-rotation portion comprises an annular groove and the second engagement portion comprises a ball that is engageable with the annular groove.

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Serial No. : 10/626,842  
Filed : July 23, 2003  
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69. (new) The router bit system of claim 65, wherein engagement of the first anti-rotation portion and the first engagement portion at least substantially prevents rotation of the shank within the bore.

70. (new) The router bit system of claim 65, wherein engagement of the second anti-rotation portion and the second engagement portion at least substantially prevents rotation of the shank within the bore.